

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 31, 2003, the drawings were objected to; claims 2-4 and 7-10 were objected to because of the informalities; and claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, Figures 2 and 9 and claims 1-12 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action at page 2, second paragraph, the Examiner objected to the drawings because FIG. 2, item (23) included the misspelled word "Manegement". Also, Fig. 9 included the misspelled word "FORW" in the "YES" branch after Step S25.

Replacement sheets for Figures 2 and 9, correcting the foregoing misspelled words, are included herewith, amending "Manegement" to --Management-- in Figure 2 and amending "FORW" to --FOR-- in Figure 9.

Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested and withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are amended, taking the Examiner's comments in the Office Action into consideration.

Withdrawal of the objections to claims 2-4 and 7-10 and the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Feb. 2, 2004

By: 
Gene M. Garner II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

FIG. 2

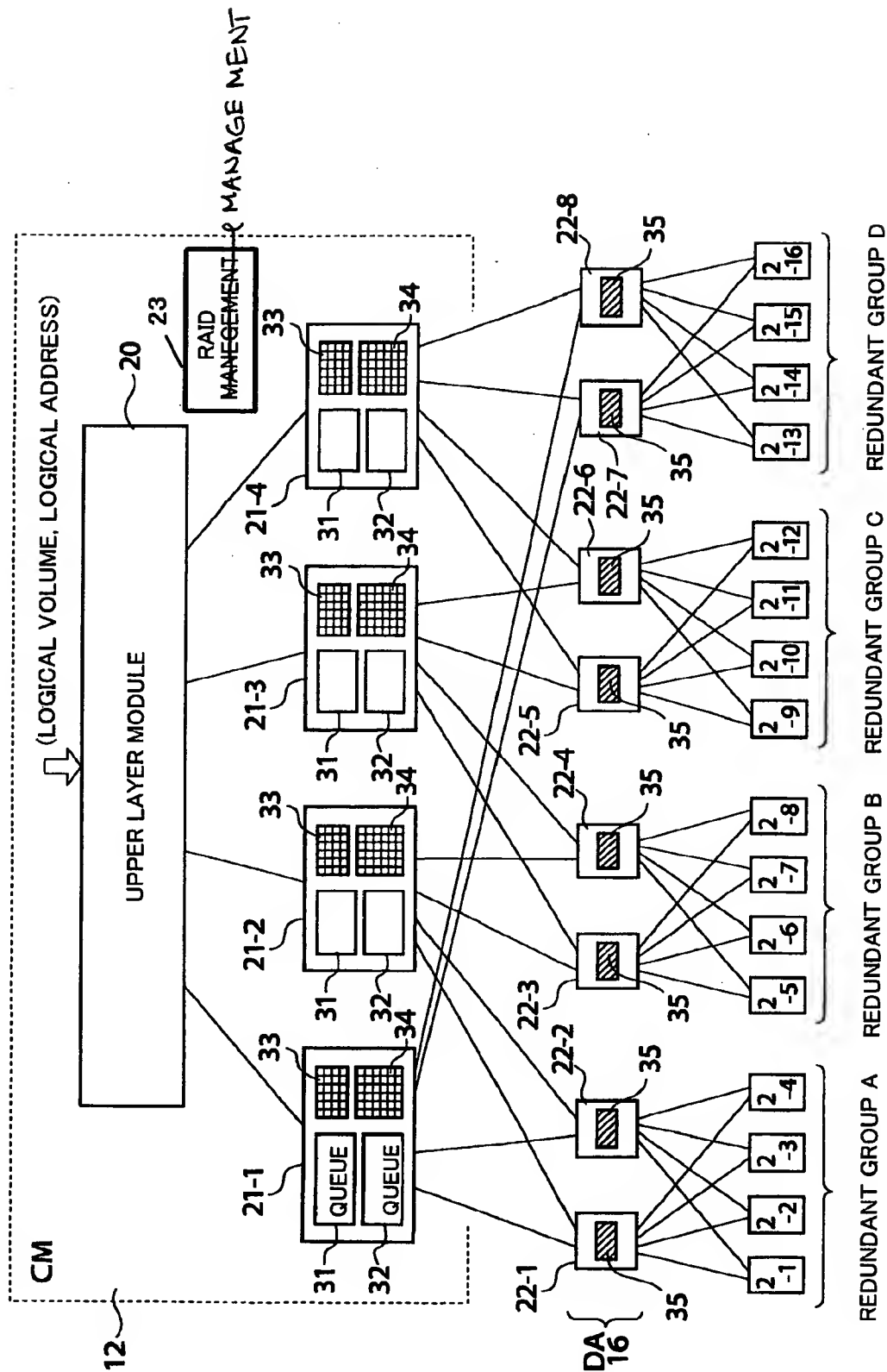


FIG. 9

